

3. REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 24-27 and 30 have been canceled. Claims 18-27 and 30 were canceled as being drawn to non-elected groups. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in divisional and continuation applications, and rejoin the deleted inventors. Upon deletion of certain inventors, the sole inventor of the pending claims will be Jared A. Austin.

Claim 28 has been amended to clarify that the fabric recited is made using the process of claim 16. As such it is submitted that this claim is not vague, as previously stated by the examiner. Claims 28 and 29 should be considered along with the remaining pending claims of Group I.

Upon entry of the claim amendments, the pending claims shall be claims 1-8, 11, 12, 16, 28, and 29.

In the office action, claims 1-2, 6, and 9-17 were rejected under §103 based on the Austin1 publication in view of the Austin patent (US 6,225,243). It is not clear which Section of §102 the examiner relied upon in making this obviousness rejection. Claims 3-4 and 7-8 were rejected under §103 based on Austin1 and the Austin patent and further in view of Wu (US 5,422,172).

Claims 9, 10, 14, 15, and 17 have been canceled, and inventors have been deleted as discussed above. The sole remaining inventor is Jared A. Austin, author of the Austin1 publication, which is the primary reference.

However, because the Austin1 publication is Mr. Austin's own work, the Austin1 publication does not qualify as prior art under §102(a). Nor does the Austin1 publication qualify as prior art under §102(f) or §102(g), or any other sub-section of §102.

Accordingly, the rejections under §103(a) based on Austin1 should be withdrawn.

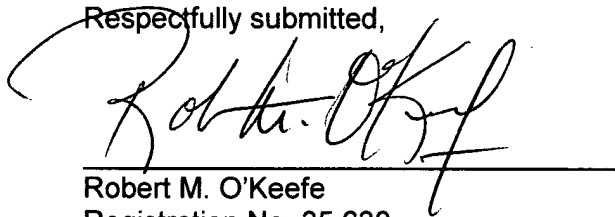
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the case is in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from O'Keefe, Egan & Peterman Deposit Account No. 10-1205.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", is written over a horizontal line.

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